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TLE PURR-PURR PEOPLE



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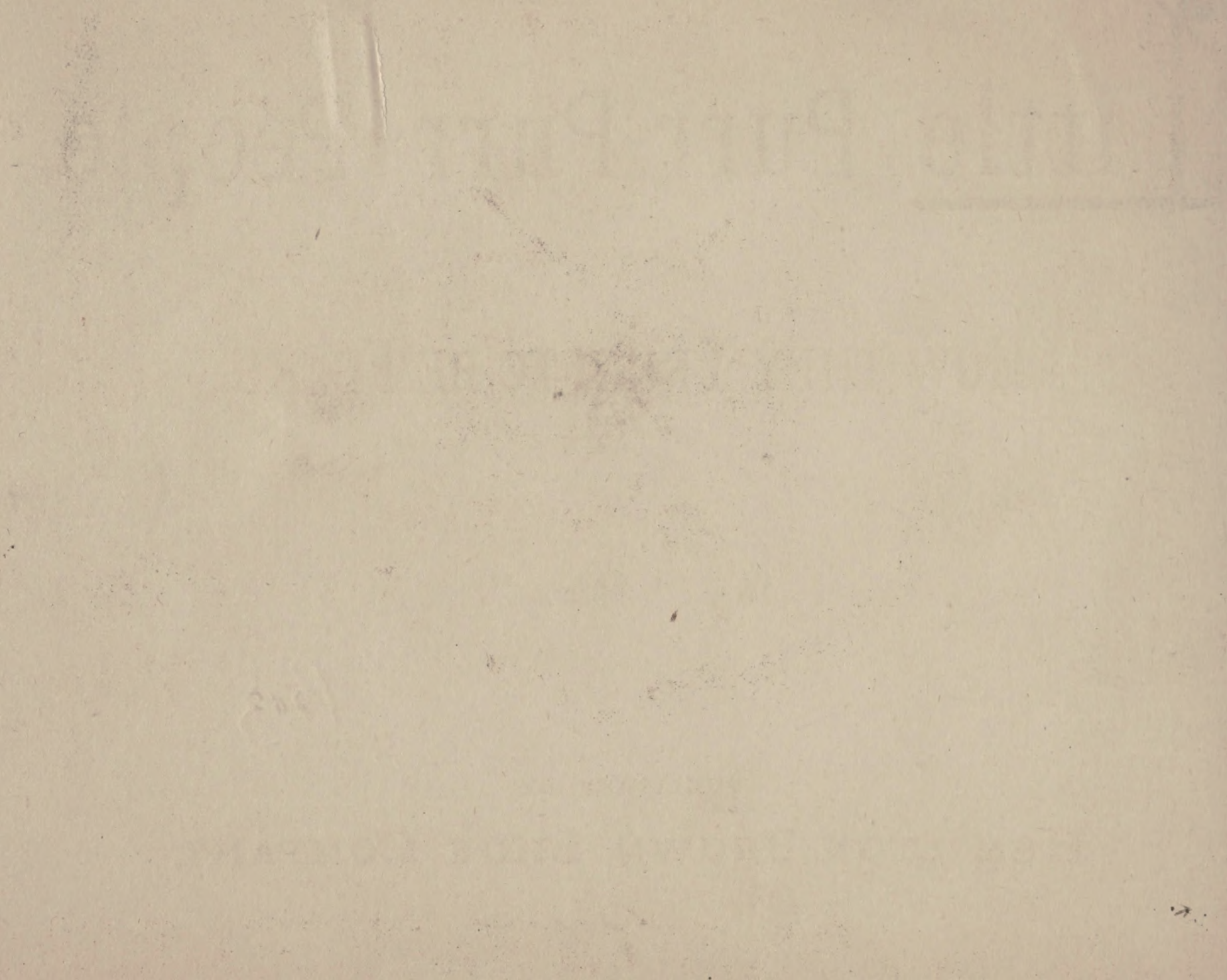
Boz


HOW · THEY · TRIED · TO · BE · FOLKS ·

PRICE 25 CTS.

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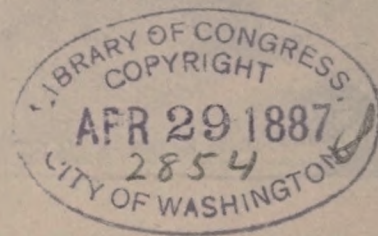
 **L**ittle Purr-Purr People,

AND

HOW THEY TRIED TO BE FOLKS.

33

By "Boz."



PUBLISHED BY

HAMILTON-BROWN SHOE COMPANY,

ST. LOUIS.



NOW Mrs. Tabby Purr-Purr
Was not a common cat:
She held advanced ideas,
And resided in a flat;
They all had tired of boarding,
Were sick of warmed-up mouse,

AND really, with six kittens,
'T were better to keep house!
"Then we can train the kittens—
I've laid," said she, "the plan—
Exactly like the children
Of the mighty race of man!"



TWO dozen damask towels
She bought at mark-down sales,
And various soaps and sponges,
And tubs and bowls and pails;
And every morning was there
Lament and shriek and squeal.

“JUST see,” said Mrs. Purr-Purr,
“They feel as children feel!”
And there were whisks and brushes,
They learned the use of those;
And nimbly did they button
Each other’s underclothes!

\$250,000 WORTH

Hamilton-Brown Shoe Co.'s "Own Make" Ladies' \$2.50 Shoe

SOLD IN 1886.

Estimated Sales on Hamilton-Brown Shoe Co.'s Men's \$2.50 Shoe
for 1887, \$100,000.

Some Shoe Men object to buying our specialties, urging for a reason that our LADIES' AND GENTS' \$2.50 SHOES do not afford the retailer profit enough. They do not recognize the fact that the increased volume of sales more than compensates for the smaller profit. If your regular shoe dealer cannot furnish our Ladies' or Gents' \$2.50 Shoes, write direct to us, and we will inform you where our shoes can be had.

The best is the cheapest, and the dealer that clings to the best will always be esteemed. The consumer gets full equivalent for his or her money in our shoes, as we use the best of leather, linings, etc., bought for cash; one uniform grade all the time. Our large production enables us to keep our shoemakers principally on one kind of work the year round, and results in a perfect shoe. For style, fit, and price, we are unequalled in the United States.

We have received letters from eighteen different States and Territories, of which we print a few in this book, all containing words of praise respecting our Ladies' \$2.50 Shoe. We shall spare no effort nor money to make our Gentlemen's Shoe as popular as our Ladies'.

We warrant our shoes to give good satisfaction to the wearer. Should they fail, please return to the dealer from whom you bought, and receive another pair or your money. Our shoes are sold for cash only.

Yours truly,

HAMILTON-BROWN SHOE CO.,
ST. LOUIS.



THEIR outfits were high fashion,
Expensive, tailor-made;
The artists often sketched them
When fresh for school arrayed.
There was wee Regina,
And Gwen, and Rosamond;

THERE was Plantagenet,
Navarre, and Hildebrand —
“Their names,” said Mrs. Purr-Purr,
“Shall be the best in town,
And such as would be fitting
If they should win renown.”

Hamilton-Brown Shoe Co.'s OWN MAKE LADIES' \$2.50 SHOE, is made of Kid, Goat, and Glazed Dongola, on Opera and Common Sense Lasts. Widths, C, D, E, and EE. Sizes from one to seven.

Hamilton-Brown Shoe Co.'s MEN'S MIGHTY \$2.50 CASH SHOE, is made Seamless of a Western Calf, on London and Plain Toe Lasts, in Button, Balmorals, and Congress. Widths, 5 and 6. Sizes from five to eleven.



OF course the Purr-Purrs favored
 The object-lesson plan ;
 Each morn upon the blackboard
 This way the teaching ran :
 "C A T — I pray you, children,
 Rise from that low degree !

RA T — 'T is food, my children,
 Unfit for you and me.
B O Y — To imitate him,
 Please strive, my Hildebrand.
G I R L — Try to be like her,
 Each day, my Rosamond."



YET, spite of all her effort,
It is as true as sad,
The little Purr-Purr people
At meals still acted bad.
They would not wait for manners,
But each would scramble up,

AND Hildebrand would snatch at
His sister's silver cup;
And oftentimes the roast would be
By twenty paws attacked:
"Ah, well!" sighed Mrs. Purr-Purr,
"So, too, do children act!"



NO modern mother's duty
Did Mrs. Purr-Purr shirk ;
"Oft come," said she, "reverses ;
They shall know how to work !"
And so these high-bred kittens
At home each day were taught :

REGINA washed the dishes,
Navarre the water brought,
Rosamond churned the butter,
Plantagenet scoured the knives ;
Thus did this model mother
Fit them for their "nine lives."

THE PRICE, \$2.50,

Looks cheap to a party about to purchase, and the question will reasonably be asked,

CAN I RELY ON A GOOD SHOE? WE ANSWER, YES!

We adopted the cash system of doing business from our commencement, and now have the largest cash shoe business in America. Our sales aggregated nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions for 1886. We place the above two shoes before the trade as leaders, upon which we and the party that retails them, make a very small profit. These two shoes are made thoroughly, and with as much distinctness as if we sold only the two shoes. We could not possibly offer the shoes at our present prices if we sold them alone, but name the above prices for cash, believing same will be a strong drawing card to induce cash purchases of other goods. We warrant the shoes as much as if we received \$5.00 a pair for them, and will give another pair, on return of the shoes, if they don't give good, reasonable satisfaction to the wearer.

Our company is made up entirely of young men, and we are in the shoe business to remain, and give general satisfaction to all with whom we have dealings. We employ only the best help, give them good remuneration for their services, and demand their whole attention to our business.



SHE fitted up a nursery
With all the human plays,
And soon the kittens played them
In very human ways.
Navarre rode like a trooper,
And little Gwendolen

PLAYED doll-mamma, and Planty
A painter was; and when
She spied upon the blackboard
A little burlesque man,
“They do,” cried Mrs. Purr-Purr,
“Quite all that children can!”



BUT still she felt the great thing
Was, at an early age,
To cultivate their voices,
And fit them for the stage.
Their wondrous hold she'd noticed
Upon the upper notes —

SURE, such tremolos never
Gurgled in human throats;
They surely had a future —
Grand opera, she thought;
So by the skilled Staccati
The dears were duly taught.

OPINIONS OF THE DEALERS.

WINFIELD, KANS., November 22, 1886.

HAMILTON-BROWN SHOE CO., St. Louis, Mo.

Gents:—Yours of the 16th to hand. In reply, will say we are very much pleased with your \$2.50 Shoe. We find it stylish, neat fitting, and comfortable. A shoe that gives splendid satisfaction to the wearer; a shoe that sells itself after once being introduced.

Respectfully,

BOWER & RAY.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, November 18, 1886.

I find the Hamilton-Brown Shoe Co.'s "Own Make" Ladies' \$2.50 Shoe the best I ever handled for the money. Always gives satisfaction.

ADAM CLAY.

COLUMBIA, MO., November 18, 1886.

HAMILTON-BROWN SHOE CO., St. Louis, Mo.

Gents:—We have been selling your \$2.50 Shoes about one year, and will say we never sold goods that gave as good and general satisfaction.

Respectfully,

MOSS, BRANHAM & CO

OSAGE MISSION, KAS., November 18, 1886.

MESSRS. HAMILTON-BROWN SHOE CO., St. Louis, Mo.

Gents:—We have handled your "Own Make" goods almost exclusively for the last year, and have been well satisfied. Your \$2.50 Shoe we consider above any ever offered at the price.

Yours truly,

OWENS BROS.

CAIRO, ILL., December 9, 1886.

MESSRS. HAMILTON-BROWN SHOE CO.

Gentlemen:—I have been selling your \$2.50 Shoe for over a year, and find that it suits my trade better than any shoe I ever handled.

Yours truly,

W. E. GHOLSON.



SO pleased was Mrs. Purr-Purr
At their first serenade,
She gave them and their schoolmates
A lovely masquerade,
At which there were provided
Bouquets for every guest,

AND all the airs and graces
Were of the very best;
And all the satins shimmered,
And all the jewels shone,
And every one had ices,
(And each a private bone!)

COLUMBUS, MISS., November 18, 1886.

HAMILTON-BROWN SHOE Co., St. Louis, Mo.

Gentlemen:—I have used your "Own Make" \$2.50 Ladies' Kid Button Boot for ten months, during which time I have sold about 300 pair. In quality, fit, and durability I find that it gives satisfaction, and averages better than any kid boot I have been able to buy at the same price.

Very respectfully,

GID. D. HARRIS.

COLLIERVILLE, TENN., November 20, 1886.

MESSRS. HAMILTON-BROWN SHOE Co., St. Louis, Mo.

Gents:—In reply to your inquiry in regard to your \$2.50 Shoes and other makes of your own, will say that they are the best shoes we ever handled for the money. They are very popular with our customers and growing more so every day.

Respectfully,

IRBY & GILLILAND.

HOT SPRINGS, ARK., November 22, 1886.

HAMILTON-BROWN SHOE Co., St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Sirs:—Your \$2.50 Ladies' Shoes have given excellent satisfaction in our trade. We consider them the best shoes made for the price—they make a neat, stylish fit, and are quick, easy sellers.

Respectfully,

WM. J. LITTLE GROCER CO.

PARIS, TEXAS, November 22, 1886.

MESSRS. HAMILTON-BROWN SHOE Co.,

Gents:—We have had an order out for ten dozen "Your Own Make" Ladies' \$2.50 Shoes for some time, and as we have such a good trade on this shoe, we did not want to run out of any sizes. Please hurry the order up. We have sold fifty dozen of this shoe in the last six months, and have guaranteed every pair of them, and have had to make good only three or four pair. They give universal satisfaction to our trade.

Yours, &c.,

PARIS DRY GOODS CO.

We have equally flattering letters from the following States, which space in this book will not permit us to print:

Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska,
Colorado, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama,
Georgia, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indian Territory, and New Mexico.



WHEN in the early morning
They crept up-stairs to bed,
She stood and patted fondly
Each sleepy little head.
She said: "You have done nobly.
It was a splendid ball!

NOT once in all the evening
Did I hear mew or squall.
One final test to-morrow,
And if I hear no noise
When I a mouse shall show you,
I'll call you GIRLS and BOYS!



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